

**Request to designate 179 Lord Seaton Road as a Natural Garden**

<b>Date:</b>	December 19, 2006
<b>To:</b>	North York Community Council
<b>From:</b>	Bryan Byng, Manager, Municipal Licensing and Standards, North York District
<b>Wards:</b>	Ward 25 - Don Valley West
<b>Reference Number:</b>	IBMS No. 06-155519

**SUMMARY**

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The purpose of this report is to consider a request by the owner(s) of 179 Lord Seaton Road to be exempted from Chapter 489 - Grass and Weeds, section 489-2. This section states that the maximum height of grass and weeds cannot exceed 20 centimetres. This report is to consider this exemption request in accordance with Chapter 489, Grass and Weeds, section 489-3(E)(6) and have their yard(s) designated a Natural Garden, as follows:

- (6) An owner or occupant requesting a review of a notice, and any other interested person, shall be heard by the community council which may recommend that Council:
  - (a) Grant the exemption, with or without conditions, and cancel the notice; or*
  - (b) Confirm the notice and direct that a second notice be given under this section.**

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

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1. Parks, Forestry and Recreation – Natural Environments, states that this is a natural garden. Therefore Municipal Licensing and Standards recommends that the exemption be granted, subject to the following conditions:
  - a. The natural garden being limited to private property only; and,

- b. The natural garden be kept to a maximum of one meter in height within 2.4 metres of the front property line

## **IMPLEMENTATION POINTS**

There is no timeframe or expiry date associated with a designation as a 'natural garden'. Therefore if the exemption is granted and a complaint is received that grass or weeds on the property are in excess of 20 centimetres the matter will be referred to Parks, Forestry and Recreation – Natural Environments.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

There is no financial impact anticipated in this report

## **DECISION HISTORY**

The notice of violation issued to the owner(s) of 179 Lord Seaton Road did not apply to the garden areas of the property. The previously mown grass areas of the lawn were cut as requested in the notice. Since the notice had been satisfied the file was closed. The owner(s) requested that the report to Community Council proceed and that it include the normally mown grass areas to permit the grass to grow in excess of 20 centimetres.

## **ISSUE BACKGROUND**

A public complaint reported grass in excess of 20 centimetres. A notice of violation was issued. The owner(s) of 179 Lord Seaton Road submitted a letter requesting a natural garden exemption. In accordance with Chapter 489, Grass and Weeds, section 489-3(E)(5), a report on the natural garden was requested from, Garth Armour, Coordinator, Parks Forestry and Recreation – Natural Environments. The recommendation for approval is based entirely on that report forwarded to us on December 14, 2006.

## **CONTACT**

Michael Carey, Supervisor, Municipal Licensing and Standards, North York District  
416-395-7012

## **SIGNATURE**

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Bryan Byng, Manager

## **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Natural Garden Request Letter
2. Report from 'Natural Environment - Parks, Forestry and Recreation'